

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00038 071315Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 SAJ-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 L-02 /063 W

----- 079512

R 071245Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3603

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 038

DEPARTMENT PASS DEFENSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, UR, SW

SUBJECT: SOVIET SHIP INTRUSION INTO SWEDISH WATERS

REF: STATE 000275

1. SUMMARY. ALL MAJOR STOCKHOLM DAILIES CARRIED STORIES DECEMBER 18-20 ON VIOLATION OF RESTRICTED WATERS OFF ENTRANCE TO STOCKHOLM ARCHIPELAGO BY SOVIET CARGO VESSEL DECEMBER 17, PROTESTED TO SOVIET EMBASSY BY MFA DECEMBER 19. AFTER COAST GUARD (CUSTOMS) SEARCH TEAM FOUND NO SUSPICIOUS EQUIPMENT ABOARD, VESSEL WAS ALLOWED TO PROCEED. EMBASSY SERVICE ATTACHE AND POLITICAL OFFICER WHO MONITORED EPISODE WITH APPROPRIATE CONTACTS FOUND GOS DISPOSED TO TREAT INTRUSION AS CALLING ONLY FOR ROUTINE PROTEST. EPISODE ADDED NOTHING TO PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AND REPORTED PATTERNS OF SOVIET AND EAST-BLOC TRANSGRESSIONS. SEE ALSO STOCKHOLM 4033 RE FREQUENCY OF SWEDISH PROTESTS OVER SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF ORDINARY SWEDISH TERRITORIAL WATERS. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. SHIP INVOLVED WAS 2300 TON CARGO VESSEL "VOLGA BALT 177"

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 00038 071315Z

WITH CREW OF 19, EN ROUTE FROM NORTHERN SWEDISH PORT OF GAVLE

TO ESTONIAN PORT OF TALLINN. RESTRICTED AREA IS IN GENERAL AREA OF ALAND STRAITS, GISSLINGO, GRANHAMNSFJAERDEN, KAPPELLSKAR. WHEN SHIP WAS ACCOSTED BY SWEDISH PATROL BOAT, IT WAS AT ANCHOR WITHIN MILITARY RESTRICTED ZONE WITHOUT HAVING REQUESTED APPROPRIATE PERMISSION. CAPTAIN'S STORY WAS THAT HE WAS SHELTERING FROM HIGH WINDS. STOCKHOLM'S MOST CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER SVENSKA DAGBLADET QUOTED ITS OWN MARINE AFFAIRS EXPERTS AS SAYING SITE CHOSEN HAD NO SPECIAL MERITS AND WINDS WERE REALLY NOT HIGH (FIVE TO SIX METERS PER SECOND), EAST GERMAN TRAWLER HAD EVIDENTLY VIOLATED SAME AREA AT SAME TIME BUT HAD ESCAPED UNSPOTTED EXCEPT BY RADIO INTERCEPTS OF ITS EXCHANGES WITH SOVIET SHIP, TWO CZECHS IN SMALL SAILBOAT HAD RECENTLY INTRUDED INTO SAME AREA, ETC. NEWSPAPER EXPRESSEN QUOTED UNIDENTIFIED SWEDISH OFFICIAL SOURCES AS FINDING SOVIET INTRUSION SERIOUS. END UNCLASSIFIED

3. EMBASSY NAVAL ATTACHE ASCERTAINED THAT WINDS HAD INDEED BEEN HIGHER THAN CLAIMED BY SVENSKA DAGBLADET, AND THAT HIS SWEDISH NAVAL CONTACTS CONSIDERED CASE A ROUTINE TECHNICAL VIOLATION WITHOUT IMPLICATIONS OF SPYING BUT REQUIRING THE FORMALITY OF A PROTEST. EMBASSY SOURCES IN MFA, CONTRARY TO PRESS ACCOUNT, ALSO DOWNPLAYED IMPORTANCE BEYOND EXPRESSING REGRET THAT THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN HAD BEEN ALLOWED BY JUDICIARY AUTHORITIES TO REJECT A REQUEST THAT HE GO ASHORE TO NORRTALJE FOR A HEARING, WHICH WAS THEN HELD ON BOARD SOVIET SHIP. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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## Message Attributes

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